b) at least one cover connector which is integral with the tubular stent body and which is configured to extend over a portion of a stent cover to secure the stent cover to the tubular stent body.

53. (New) A stent assembly, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which has a first ring section at a first end, a second ring section at a second end and at least one ring section intermediate the first and second ring sections and which has at least one cover connector integral with the tubular stent body and configured to secure a stent cover to the tubular stent body; and

b) a cover secured to the tubular stent body by at least one cover connector which extends over a portion of the stent cover.

54. (New) The stent assembly of claim 48 wherein the stent cover has a first end cover section disposed under undulations of the first ring section of the stent to secure the stent cover at least in part to the tubular stent body.

55. (New) A stent, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body having a first ring section at a first end, a second ring section at a second end and at least one ring section intermediate the first and second ring sections; and

b) at least one cover connector which is integral with the tubular body and which is configured to extend over a portion of a stent cover to secure the stent cover to the tubular stent body.

56. (New) A stent assembly, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which has a first ring section at a first end, a second ring section at a second end and at least one ring section intermediate the first and second ring sections and which has at least one cover connecting means integral with the tubular stent body and configured to secure a stent cover to the tubular stent body; and

b) a cover secured to the tubular stent body by the cover connecting means integral with the tubular stent body.

Please amend claims 1- 10, 12-15 and 48-51 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) The stent of claim 52 wherein the at least one cover connector integral with the tubular body has a first end, a second end, a first section adjacent the first end of the connector, a second section adjacent the second end of the connector, and a third section between the first and second sections, and having an open configuration, and a closed configuration in which the first section has at least one bend and the second section has at least one bend so that the first and second sections are bent together and are directed towards the third section.

2. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector has portions configured to bend when the cover connector assumes the closed configuration.

3. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector assumes the closed configuration when the first section is bent at a first location, and the second section is bent at a first location on the second section.

4. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector assumes the closed configuration when the first section has a first bend and a second bend in the

same direction as the first bend in the first section, and the second section has a first bend and a second bend in the same direction as the second bend in the second section.

5. (Amended) The stent of claim 4 wherein the second bend on the first section is between the first bend on the first section and the first end of the cover connector, and the second bend on the second section is between the first bend on the second section and the second end of the cover connector.

6. (Amended) The stent of claim 4 wherein the second bend on the first section is between the first bend on the first section and the third section of the cover connector, and the second bend on the second section is between the first bend on the second section and the third section of the cover connector.

7. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the first end and the second end of the cover connector are configured to pierce a stent cover.

8. (Amended) The stent of claim 7 wherein the first end and the second end of the cover connector are tapered to a pointed tip.

9. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the tubular body has spaced apart wall sections defining an open-walled structure, and the cover connector is secured to a support member extending between the spaced apart wall sections.

10. (Amended) The stent of claim 9 wherein the support member has a first end secured to the tubular body and a second end secured to the tubular body, and the third section of the cover connector is secured to the support member between the first and second ends of the support member.

12. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector is about 0.15 mm to about 10 mm in length.

13. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the tubular body in the open configuration.

14. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the cover connector is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular body in the open configuration.

15. (Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein the at least one cover connector on the tubular body has a first end, a second end, a first section adjacent the first end of the connector, a second section adjacent the second end of the connector, and a third section between the first and second sections, and having an open configuration, and a closed configuration in which the first section has at least one bend and the second section has at least one bend so that the first and second sections are bent together and are directed towards the third section; and wherein at least a portion of the first section and the second section of the cover connector integral with the tubular stent body extend over a portion of the cover to secure the cover to the tubular stent body stent.

48. (Amended) The stent assembly of claim 53 wherein at least the first ring section of the tubular stent body has undulations and at least one ring connecting member extending between the first ring section and an adjacent ring section.